O God! We weren’t aware of the firebrand we had in our ashes

Captain Abdul Qadir Khan

Sardar Mahmood Khan, the president of Sawat and Bunair trade, visited Delhi during the Mughal dynasty, for the purpose of trade of horses. When he came to know about the magnificence of the nabobs of Rampur, he also visited this state during the reign of Nabob Yusuf Ali Khan. He was much impressed by the glory of Rohailas and stayed there for a long time after witnessing the respect the rulers and the public had for each other and also the excessive business opportunities present there. He also advised Khan Mustafa Khan, the elder son to permanently settle in Rampur. After seeing the Pathans of his co-tribe Kamal Zai in Rampur, he agreed to the suggestion of his father and declared Rampur as his country. He adopted the business of horse trading and started living there.

Ali Bahadur Khan, the son of Khan Mustafa Khan was born in Rampur. He gave him the education about the profession army. After he became an expert in this field, his father got him employed in the Cavalry and Lancers force of Qalb e Isa (late). He was promoted to a high rank in this army because of his bravery and skills. Captain Abdul Qadir Khan was the son of the same and was fond of horse riding and army since his childhood. Hence, at a very young age, he was employed in the Lancers as a horse-keeper. In those days, it was a rank of distinction and a soldier always used to accompany the bearer of this rank.

Captain Abdul Qadir was a tall and graceful man. Horse riding was the part of his family’s customs and bravery was the part of his genes. Because of his bravery, soon he was promoted to the rank of Subaidar, Jamadar, Risaldar Major and ultimately to the rank of Captain. Captain Abdul Qadir acquired fame not only in the army of Rampur but of the whole empire and the fort.

High ranks are bestowed not only on the basis of personality and skills but nobility of the family, high-mindedness, determination, keeping the own words, religious mindedness, man of good character and loyalty to the ruler/king made Captain Abdul Qadir more dependable and entitled to distinction as compared to other officers of Rampur army.

In 1914, during the first world war, Rampur was requested to let Captain Abdul Qadir join this war. He was appointed as the commandant of the selected corps and travelled overseas to participate in the battlefield where he acquired a lot of fame and many awards. He got silver medal and a monthly salary of sixty rupees was also fixed for him by the British government. Furthermore, he was also bestowed with the title of O-B-I by the English government. He established the superiority of Rampur army over the British army and returned to homeland as a successful soldier. His valour and courage was recognised. Government of India bestowed him with the title of “Khan Bahadur" while the nabob of Rampur also announced many awards for him.

Representing the state of Rampur, Captain Abdul Qadir travelled to England to attend Silver Jubilee celebrations of King George V. There he raised the honour of Rampur through his personality and military skills. After he returned from there, he was appointed as the Fort Commandant. After the death of nabob Hamid Ali Khan, when his body was being shifted to Karbala-e-Mu'alla, Captain Abdul Qadir Khan was the one chosen to accompany the dead body

where he performed his duty with due diligence, responsibility and respect. And he had the chance of pilgrimage of all the sacred sites. After that, he served as the ADCR of respected nabob Raza Ali Khan. Then he served as the body guard of nabob Murtaza Ali Khan, the current ruler of Rampur.

Captain Abdul Qadir was a tall, strong and a man of beautiful personality. A marvellous glamour during his youth and because of red beard after that age made his personality more charming/attractive and had an impressive personality. His personality was prominent even when present in the crowd of thousands. He had two sons. The eldest one, named Fazal ul Qadir joined army as second lieutenant and was promoted to the rank of Captain. Mohammed Qadir Khan, the younger one, because of his natural intelligence and devotion, got admission in the Technical College of Aligarh Muslim University and got diploma as an Electric Expert and also passed many training courses. Since many years, he is serving as a responsible mechanic in Buland Sugar Factory. Because of his personal talent/skill, the factory never ignored him during its ups and downs.

For many years, Captain Abdul Qadir suffered from heart disease. Even in his old age, his power, energy and determination can be assumed from the fact that he didn't seem to be affected from his decreasing heart beat after every two to three minutes. Such personalities are getting extinct. People like him are not born now days.

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